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ruler is absolute; and the monarch who can say with truth *L'état c'est moi* is the best of all rulers and has the happiest subjects, since only the best ruler can rule his subjects absolutely. The secret of the state's eternity, the happiness and freedom of its subjects and the surest security for the permanence of the royal power, is a good constitution planted deeply in the affections of the people. The obligation of obedience lasts only so long as the ruler maintains the conditions for the sake of which men form a state and elect rulers, but tyrannicide as a means of preventing tyranny is unjustifiable and insufficient. Applying to the state Hobbes' doctrine of the belligerency of the natural man, he says states are by nature enemies and are always in a state of potential or actual hostility.

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How to Keep Household Accounts: A Manual of Family Finance. By CHARLES WALDO HASKINS, L. H. M., C. P. A. Pp. viii, 117. Price, \$1.00. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1903.

More than a thousand books have appeared in English on the general theme of "domestic economy." Mr. Haskins, in his "How to Keep Household Accounts," is the first recognized authority in the field of accounting to give treatment to the subject. The work is intended to aid in the adjustment of private expenditure and income in such a way as to leave a surplus for "higher living." The ideal which the author sets before himself in this little book is expressed as follows: "We labor to satisfy our needs and to increase our hoard. Our labor is productive of these results, however, in proportion as it is well ordered." The book is dedicated to the service of the mistress of the household, into whose hands falls the administration of its well-being. A system is proposed which will show "how the situation compares, on the one hand, with a former condition and, on the other, with the ideal in the mind of the administrator." For classification of accounts the purpose of administration is set forth in simple language: "The reasoning of domestic economists will be that we must eat, drink, wear clothes, have a roof over our heads, pay for service, educate the young, look after the general comforts and well-being of the household and save what we can out of our income. This gives to the housewife seven chief categories of expenditure: (1) food, (2) clothing, (3) rent and taxes, (4) light, heat, washing, etc., (5) household furnishings, (6) education and recreation, (7) investments."

Not only does Mr. Haskins give the form of accounts intended to serve the end of intelligent thought with reference to these ends, but in the discussion of "the budget" he gives the best result of scientific research as to the apportionment of income in such a way as to give the highest results in welfare. The four laws laid down by Dr. Engels are set out in brief: "The drift of them is, (1) that as income increases the smaller is the percentage of outlay for food, (2) that the outlay for clothing maintains a constant proportion to the whole, (3) that the percentage for shelter and for heat and

light is the same whatever the income, (4) that the percentage of outlay for sundries (expressing the degree of prosperity) increases as income advances."

These observations, with a well-ordered system of accounts, lay the foundation for administration of income for the maintenance of higher living and enjoyment. To so apportion the several classes of expenditure as to leave the highest "expression of welfare" is to attain the greatest measure of success.

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The Nearer East. By D. G. HOGARTH. Pp. xvi, 296. Price, \$2.00. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1902.

This volume is one of a series of geographical studies whose aim it is to make familiar the basis that geography gives to history and social progress. In each volume some natural region is to be so described that its marked physical features will be related to the life of the people or peoples that have occupied it. Facts are presented so graphically and vividly that their causal relations will be manifest. The reader will thus visualize each region with its seas and lands, its uplands and lowlands, its forests, deserts and all its seasonal changes on which crops, food and life depend.

This good program has been well executed by Mr. Hogarth in the present volume. I have seldom seen a book better arranged or its various facts and ideas more clearly presented. It is a model which it is to be hoped that the other authors of the series will follow. If they do, one of the great difficulties of history and social science will be removed.

The volume is of especial importance because it deals with the regions occupied by the older civilizations. The "Nearer East" is made up of the lands bordering on the eastern Mediterranean together with those about the Persian Gulf. It thus includes Greece, the Balkan Peninsula, Asia Minor, Syria, Egypt, Arabia and Persia. Each of these regions is separately described, so that its area, position, geological structure and climate can be clearly understood, and then in the second part each district is again gone over to show its products, its means of communication, the distribution and grouping of races and the conditions of life. All this is well done, and no one can read the book and study the maps without acquiring new ideas of these regions and the part they have played in social progress.

The defects of the book lie in the closing sections. The author stops where the most is to be expected of him. After having described the five districts, there should have been a presentation of the physical aspects of the whole region and their effects on man. We do indeed find a closing chapter on "World Relation," but this deals only with its present use to other regions and with its power to provoke international disturbance.

Geologically the region as a whole is of late origin, and at an earlier period the seas must have covered a larger area and the land masses must have been of less altitude. At this time the region was well watered and the vegetation varied and luxurious. Later, partly at least through volcanic action,